

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 5, 2003 has been carefully reviewed. Claims 1-4 are pending in this patent application. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

35 USC § 102 Rejection

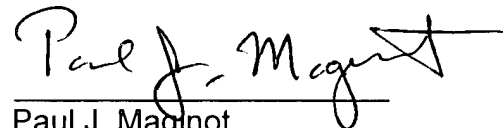
Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by WO 01/06997 (WO '997). Attached hereto is a certified English translation of Swiss Patent Application No. 2000 2520/00, filed on December 22, 2000. Claims 1-4 are supported by this Swiss patent application. As a result, Applicants' date of "invention" corresponding to the claims of this patent application is December 22, 2000. Since the WO '997 was published after this date, WO '997 is not a competent reference under 35 USC § 102(a) in relation to this patent application. Thus, claims 1-4 are believe to be allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Action to that end is hereby solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Maginot", written over a horizontal line.

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